

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-4 (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A control facility for providing network administration for a network comprising at least one server location and a plurality of client locations associated with each of said at least one server, comprising:

at least one processing component for gathering stored software program information, including at least one of program version, access levels, operability information, program security data, e-mail template version, and user-designated address list information, from said locations on said network and for evaluating the content of said program information;

at least one storage component associated with said at least one processing component for storing program information gathered from said locations;

at least one communication component for effecting communication from said at least one processing component along said network in response to said evaluating; and

further comprising a response generating component for generating a response based upon the evaluating of the content of information gathered from at least one of said network locations for delivery by said communication component.

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6. (original) The facility of Claim 5 wherein said response generating component comprises at least means for identifying the network location from which said content was gathered.

7-11 (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A network comprising:
at least one server network location;
a plurality of client network locations, each associated with one of said at least one server locations; and
an administrative control facility for gathering and evaluating the content of stored software program information gathered from one or more of said at least one server location and said plurality of client network locations,
wherein said administrative control facility comprises:
at least one processing component for gathering information about said network, including at least one of program versions, access levels, operability information, program security data, e-mail template versions, and user-designated address list information, and for evaluating the content of said information;
at least one storage component associated with said at least one processing component;

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at least one communication component for effecting communication from said at least one processing component along said network based on said evaluating.

13-20 (canceled)

21. (previously presented) The control facility of Claim 5 wherein said at least one processing component comprises a querying component for generating a query to at least one of said locations in said network and a receiving component for receiving and processing information gathered in response to said query and for generating at least one response based upon the content of said information.

22. (previously presented) The control facility of Claim 5 wherein said at least one processing component comprises a scanner component for scanning at least one of said locations in said network and a receiving component for receiving and processing information gathered from said scanning and for generating a response based upon said information.

23. (previously presented) The control facility of Claim 5 wherein said at least one processing component further comprises a querying component for generating a query to at least one of said locations in said network, a scanner component for scanning

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at least one of said locations in said network and a receiving component for receiving and processing information gathered by said processing component.

24. (previously presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein said administrative control facility is located at one of said at least one server network locations.

25. (previously presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein said administrative control facility is located in a central control facility.

26. (previously presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein at least one of said at least one server network locations additionally comprises client information gathering means and at least one storage facility for storing information gathered by said client information gathering means.

27. (previously presented) The system of Claim 12 wherein said at least one processing component comprises a querying component for generating a query to at least one of said locations in said network, a scanner component for scanning at least one of said locations in said network and a receiving component for receiving and processing information gathered by said processing component and for generating a response based

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upon the content of information gathered from at least one of said network locations.

28. (currently amended) A method for providing administration of a network comprising at least one server network location and a plurality of client network locations, each associated with a server network location comprising the steps of:

gathering and evaluating information from at least one of said network locations, wherein said information comprises at least one of program version, access levels, operability information, program security data, e-mail template version, and user-designated address list information;

preparing a response based upon an evaluation of the content of said information.

29. (previously presented) The method of Claim 28 wherein said gathering comprises querying said locations for information.

30. (previously presented) The method of Claim 28 wherein said gathering comprises scanning said locations and obtaining said information without involvement of processing components at said locations.

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31. (previously presented) The method of Claim 28 wherein said preparing a response comprises flagging locations from which information is gathered.

32. (previously presented) The method of Claim 28 further comprising identifying inconsistent information at said locations.

33. (previously presented) The method of Claim 32 wherein network information is stored and wherein said identifying comprises comparing gathered information to stored information.